DEMOCRATIC

GERMAN REPORT

VOL. IV NO. 14 JULY 8th 1955 Price: 15 Pf., 5 c, 3 d

"GET TROOPS OUT" — Molotov

The withdrawal of the main bodies of occupation troops from East and West Germany, and the strict limitation of the police forces in both parts of the country would be one of the main steps towards a relaxation of internation tension. Soviet Foreign Minister V. M. Molotov told the United Nations meeting in San Francisco on June 22nd.

The exact wording of M. Molotov's proposal regarding Germany was as follows: "We must achieve ... an agreement between the USSR, USA, Great Britain and France on the withdrawal of their troops from Germany, with the eception of small contigents which would remain for the time being; and the creation of strictly controlled local police forces in both parts of Germany."

DOES LEONARDO DA VINCI THREATEN WEST GERMANY?

Books on Leonardo da Vinci and Goethe "endanger the constitutional integrity of the (West) German Federal Republic" according to the inaictment in a case now being heard by the West German High Court at Karlsruhe.

On trial before the court are Georg Gampfer, First Secretary of the German-Soviet Friendship Society in West Germany, and two other officials of the society.

The three men are charged with:

a. Preparations to commit high treason.
b. Being ring-leaders in an unconstitutional organisation.
c. Organising a secret society.
d. Endangering the constitutional integrity of the German Federal Republic.

The 400-page indictment presented to the court when the trial opened on June 13th bases itself almost entirely on magazines, books and leaflets legally issued by the German-Soviet Friendship Society in West Germany since its formation in 1950. One of the charges in this indictment is that the Society "distributed a book on Leonardo da Vinci by two Soviet authors which is written in a materialist and atheist spirit and attacks the Catholic Church". The indictment also cites the fact that the Society "published a book on Goethe by Soviet authoress Marietta Shaginian".

Other points cited in the indictment to prove the "unconstitutional activities" of the Society are:

1. The publication of the full text of a speech delivered by Andrei Vishinsky in the UN on October 28th 1950, and of a speech delivered at San Francisco by A. A. Gromyko on September 5th 1951.

2. The fact that "Freie Welt", magazine issued by the Society, printed the radio programmes of Moscow Radio and the stations of the German Democratic Republic, but not West German radio programmes.

3. The fact that the Society had arranged the exhibition of such Soviet films as "The Fall of Berlin", "Meeting on the Elbe" and "Donbas Miners". The indictment stated that the showing of Soviet fairy tale films had been organised "with the purpose of influencing youth in accordance with the aims of the German-Soviet Friendship Society".

4. The fact that the Society had given its support to "circles inimical to the state" in the organisation of a plebiscite against West German remilitarisation.

The entire indictment was phrased in semi-nazi jargon, including the use of such terms as "Red Spain fighter" to describe anti-fascists who fought in the ranks of the International Brigade in Spain. The indictment did not name a single overt act on the part of the accused which would normally be regarded as "treasonable" in any modern country.

* * *

The German-Soviet Friendship Society in West Germany, which is very similar to such organisations in Britain, France and dozens of other countries, has been constantly persecuted by the West German authorities since its formation in 1950. It is perfectly openly organised, with headquarters in Dusseldorf and branches in many other towns, and has never been prohibited on a Federal level, though local bans were pronounced in several provinces in 1952. Meetings of the Society have, however, constantly been banned on the scantiest pretexts, its films, pamphlets and books have been seized, and well over 1000 police searches have been made in the private houses of members. On June 11th 1955, two days before the present trial began, police raided the public headquarters of the society in Dusseldorf and seized large quantities of documents which had been prepared for the defence in the case.

W. German Parliament & Call-Up

"NAZI WEHRMACHT DID ITS DUTY" Says Minister

Members of all parties of the West German coalition government praised the "high ethical standards" and the "selfsacrifice" of Hitler's soldiers in a parliamentary debate on the call-up for the new West German Wehrmacht.

The debate was opened on June 27th by West German Defence Minister Theodor Blank, who announced formally for the first time that the new Wehrmacht would consist of 370,000 soldiers organised in 12 divisions, 70,000 Luftwaffe men with 1326 fighter planes, 20,000 sailors, and an undefined number of anti-aircraft units.

He stated that all West Germans between the ages of 18 and 45 would be liable to military service, and that the call-up age would be twenty, with a eighteen month service period.

Praising the soldiers of the Hitlerite Wehrmacht, Minister Blank stated:

"After 1945 there was a period in which old soldiers were unjustly despised. Our Government knows the troubles of the former soldiers. The German soldier always did his duty courageously, uprightly and obediently."

Here are a few sentences from the statements made by the representatives of other parties in the West German Parliament when the debate was continued on June 28th.

Heinz Mattkes, German Party:

"In the past few years, the uniform which the German soldier wore with honour — yes, with honour, despite everything — has been cursed and despised, not only by the victors, but also by some Germans. This is something which it is not easy to forget. And it must be stated plainly at this hour: We of the German Party have from the very beginning held high the flag of real soldierliness . . . In the name of the German Party I must state quite categorically: German soldierhood, in its entirety, is quite above all attacks on its honour. We are convinced that only a state which recognises the old soldiers as the bearers of the soldierly spirit has the right to call the people to arms."

Dr. Erich Mende, Free Democrat:

"We do not want words like 'fighting forces', we should go back to the traditional title of 'Wehrmacht'. These German formations should have symbols and flags in the Federal colours of black-red-gold and decorated with the iron cross, the emblem of the Wehrmacht, which has presided over 142 years of German soldierly history.

"We greet the government declaration which recognised the ethical sacrifice of our soldiers, and which made plain that the soldier must be praised for his ethical sacrifice, regardless of the political system under which he made this sacrifice. But this is not enough: there must be both moral and material compensation for the former professional soldiers . . ."

Dr. Richard Jaeger, Christian Democrat:

"In a nation like ours, which has a soldierly tradition, the question will be raised as to what our attitude is toward our national tradition in the military field . . . There can be no denying that the outstanding personalities of the Prussian state contributed real moral values to our tradition."

T.U.s. MUST GET TOGETHER

Trade unionists in East and West Germany should unite in addressing a declaration to the Geneva Conference of the Four Powers. East German trade union leader Herbert Warnke has suggested. The declaration could urge peaceful reunification, opposition to remilitarisation, and the withdrawal of occupation forces.

Herbert Warnke made this suggestion at the Congress of the Free German Trade Union Federation of East Germany held in Berlin in June 1955. The Congress marked the 10th anniversary of the foundation of the Free German Trade Union Federation shortly after the end of World War II.

All German trade unions should get together in the fight against big business and the revival of fascism and militarism in West Germany, he said. There should be widest possible trade union discussion on how to win German unity and the course to be taken after reunification.

He invited delegations from West Germany to study all aspects of trade union life in East Germany and East German delegations could do the same in West Germany. In this way the trade unions could find ways of bringing existing legislation in both parts of Germany closer together.

He also urged free exchange of East and West German trade union literature and joint attendance at central trade union conferences.

Several hundred West German delegates and delegations from a number of foreign countries, including China, Poland, Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union, attended the congress.

An important section of Herbert Warnke's report dealt with achievements in the social services.

In 1950 300,000 trade union workers and office employees spent their holidays in trade union holiday homes; in 1954 the number had increased to just under a million.

Between 1950 and 1954 trade union expenditure on holidays increased more than four times, on mass cultural work and sport it was more than doubled and on educational work nearly doubled.

The East German social insurance service, brought completely under the control of the trade unions in 1951, increased its total expenditure from 4,500 million marks in 1951 to nearly 6,000 Million marks in 1955.

In 1945, 84 per cent of all patients in medicinal baths and convalescent homes were private paying patients; today 90 per cent are social insurance patients. In 1950 there were nearly 240,000 such patients; this year the number will be just under half a million.

NAZI "ADVISER" FOR GENEVA

The Strange Case of Dr Grewe

The leader of the West German team of observers at the Big Four Conference in Geneva on July 18th will be Wilhelm Grewe, chief of the Political Department of the West German Foreign Ministry, it was announced in Bonn.

At the end of June Wilhelm Grewe was reported to be in conference with British, French and American officials at Bonn, working out the western programme for the German question to be presented to the Geneva Conference.

Who is this Professor Grewe? On this page we reproduce a few sentences from an article written in 1941 by Professor Grewe for the "Monthly for Foreign Policy" a semi-official publication which appeared in Berlin throughout the nazi period. "The decision of June 22nd" which Professor Grewe mentions in this article was of course the brutal nazi invasion of the Soviet Union, and the "free corps" which he praises are the quisling soldiers of the Waffen-SS.

During the nazi period, Grewe was lecturer at the "High School for Politics" in Berlin from 1938 to 1944, when as a reward for his services to nazism he was promoted to the post of professor at Berlin University.

The article which we reproduce on this page is only one example of his support for nazi and militarist ideology. In 1942 for instance, he described the Kellogg Pact to outlaw war as "irreconcilable with the principles of the classical laws of warfare" ("Zeitschrift für Politik", 1942, page 202), and in another article published on page 233 of the 1940 issue of the same periodical he quoted with great approval a passage from Proudhon forecasting the complete destruction of Paris in a future war.

After the war Professor Grewe by no means rejected his fascist past. In October 1946 he was the main speaker at a jurists' discussion in Stuttgart on the subject of the Nuremberg War Crimes Trial. In his address he stated:

"The victors are not entitled to sit in judgement on the defeated" ("Nuremberg as a Legal Problem" Ernst Klett Verlag, Stuttgart 1947, page 13.) On page 46 of the same book Grewe is quoted as stating that the leading nazi war criminals should not be punished "because the acts were not punishable under law at the time of their commission".

Monatshefte
für Auswärtige Politik

Im Gemeinschaft mit dem Hamburger Institut für Auswärtige Politik herausgegeben vom
Deutschen Institut für Außenpolitische Forschung, Berlin
Hauptschriftleiter im Nebenberuf: Professor Dr. Friedrich Berber, Berlin

8. Jahrgang Heft 9 September 1941

stehen. Niemand wird behaupten wollen, daß die Entscheidung des 22. Juni nicht aus sehr realen Erwägungen erwachsen sei. Nach aller geschichtlichen Erfahrung pflegen große weltgeschichtliche Missionen, die nicht im Stadium der Utopie und der unverbindlichen Planung steckenbleiben, in solcher Weise ihren Anfang zu nehmen. Daß der große übernationale Auftrag, den es hier zu vollstrecken gilt, gleichwohl weithin verstanden worden ist beweisen die Expeditions- und Freikorps aus nahezu allen Ländern Europas, die an der Front im Osten stehen.

Monthly for Foreign Policy

Published by the German Institute for Foreign Policy Research, Berlin.

8th Year Number 9 September 1941.

. . . Nobody will wish to claim that the decision of June 22nd was not taken on very real grounds. The experience of history shows that all great world-historic missions, which do not bog down in the stage of utopias and indefinite planning, tend to start in such a manner. The expeditionary corps and the free corps from nearly every country in Europa which are at the eastern front, show that the great supra-national task which has to be done here is also understood far and wide.

COMMUNIST BAN TRIAL

Here is a summary of recent proceedings before the West German Constitutional Court in Karlsruhe, at which the West German Government is attempting to obtain a ban on the Communist Party (KPD). Summaries of previous proceedings were given in GERMAN REPORT dated December 10th and 24th 1954, March 4th and 18th, April 1st and 29th, and June 24th 1955.

June 21st: KPD defence counsel applied for the ban application to be thrown out of court, or at least to be suspended until after the conclusion of the pending Big Four Conference, and the negotiations between the USSR and the West German Government. "Under the present circumstances, proceedings against the KPD are a great obstacle to international understanding and the peaceful solution of the German question", defence attorney Dr Boehmer stated. The court rejected the appication, but accepted an application by the prosecution designed to bring the trial to an early end.

June 22nd: Prosecuting attorney Dr Karlsbach introduced new exhibits on the agitation and propaganda carried out by the KPD. This propaganda "was particularly dangerous" because it concentrated on the themes of the peaceful reunification of Germany, and united action by the working class, Dr Karlsbach stated. He stated that the demand made by the KPD that the militarists, junkers and monopolists should be removed from positions of power in West Germany was "a serious threat" to constitutional order.

June 23rd: The court ordered that final defence speeches should be delivered by July 7th, in order to make possible an early ending of the trial. Defence counsel protested energetically against this ruling, which they stated did not give them enough time to prepare their pleas.

June 28th: Defence attorney Dr Kaul requested the court to call as witnesses West German Minister for All-German Affairs Jakob Kaiser, and West Berlin police chief Johannes Stumm, who should testify on the criminal and unconstitutional activities of West Berlin organisations such as the "Fighting Group against Inhumanity".

DEATH SENTENCES FOR SABOTEURS

The Supreme Court of the German Democratic Republic passed death sentences on June 23rd on two agents of the West Berlin organisation "Fighting Group against Inhumanity" who had made preparations to blow up important railway bridges, dams and other objects in East Germany.

The men sentenced to death were Gerhard Benkowitz and Hans Kogel. Three other agents of the "Fighting Group" who had circulated forged ration cards and committed sabotage in other ways were sentenced to long terms of imprisonment.

Evidence was given that Benkowitz and Kogel, acting on instructions from the West Berlin headquarters, had assembled large quantities of explosives and incendiary material and had made detailed preparations for blowing up the main railway bridge between Weimar and Gera, for destroying the Saal Valley Dam, the largest in central Europe, and for firing huge coal reserves at Weimar.

One of the witnesses testified that when he pointed out to a West Berlin leader of the organisation that such acts of sabotage could endanger many lives, this sabotage chief retorted: "There are plenty of people running about in the East Zone, and a few more or less doesn't make any difference."

On June 27th the East German Supreme Court, in another trial, passed the death sentence on Joachim Wiesbach, and sentenced four other men to long terms of imprisonment. They had been found guilty of spying for RIAS, the American radio station and espionage headquarters in West Berlin.

P. S. One day later, on June 28th, the official US "Hoover Commission", in a report to Congress, called for stepped up American espionage in East Germany and elsewhere. The official Commission report called for "greater boldness on the policy level" on the part of American intelligence agencies, and for a willingness "to accept certain calculated political and diplomatic risks".

The Commission stated quite plainly: "The major aim would be greater concentration on the collection of intelligence information from our major target — Russia and her satellites and Communist China."

PRESIDENT PIECK'S DIAMOND JUBILEE

Wilhelm Pieck, President of the German Democratic Republic, celebrated on July 1st 1955 the sixtieth anniversary of the day when he first joined the Socialist movement.

Wilhelm Pieck joined the Social Democratic Party in July 1895. One year earlier he had already become an active member of the Woodworkers' Union.

During the First World War, Pieck was constantly harried by the Kaiser's police because of his anti-war activities, and had to escape to Holland. At the end of the war he was one of the founder members of the German Communist Party.

From 1933 to 1945 Wilhelm Pieck led the German Communist Party, both inside and outside Germany in its fight against Hitler, and back in Germany after the end of the Second World War he led the movement for the amalgamation of the Social Democratic and Communist Parties to form the Socialist Unity Party.

In October 1949 Wilhelm Pieck was elected President of the German Democratic Republic.

Old Archives for East Germany

The Soviet Union has handed over to the Government of the German Democratic Republic a valuable collection of decouments from the archives of the German and Prussian Foreign Ministries covering the years 1837 to 1945. Other German historical documents dating back to the 14th Century have also been handed over.

The archives were rescued by Soviet troops at the end of the war, and taken to the Soviet Union for safe keeping.

People's Police Ten Years Old

The People's Police of the German Democratic Republic celebrated their tenth birthday on July 1st. The first units of the People's Police, composed of veteran anti-fascist fighters, were raised at the beginning of July 1945, two months after the end of the war, to replace the old nazi police in what was then the Soviet Zone of Germany.

In the past ten years a total of 600 members of the People's Police have lost their lives protecting the lives and security of the people of the Republic.

New Zoo in East Berlin

A completely new zoo was opened in East Berlin on July 2nd. The new zoo, in area one oft the largest city zoos in the world, spreading over a park of about 400 acres, has been entirely built by voluntarily labour, contributions from the people of Berlin, and the proceeds of a special lottery.

Most of the animals have been donated too — the Ministry of Heavy Industry contributed an elephant, for instance, and a nationally-owned refigerator foctory donated a polar bear.

Zoos in West Germany and many foreign countries have also contributed animals for the new zoo.

Win a New Reader

Fill in the name and address of a friend, work-mate or acquaintance on the form below, and send it to

Democratic German Report
Friedrichstrasse 167/III
Berlin W 8, Germany

We shall be pleased to mail sample copies of the paper to him or her.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

EAST GERMAN LAW IN ACTION

By Paula Wiking, London

The magistrate's court of the Prenzlauer Berg district of Berlin sat in an oblong room, with the sun pouring in through the two windows in one of its long walls. The judge's dais at one of the short ends was not raised more than about a foot above the floor. A prisoner standing in front of it thus had his eye level with those of the judge, seated with the two lay assessors behind a table running the length of the dais. This is important, for it means that there is no flummery, no stagecraft to strike terror into the heart of the sinner.

There was no dock either — simply a long bench for the accused, below and a little to one side of the dais. A table behind it for defending counsel, some twelve to fifteen chairs for the public at the end of the room facing the judge—and that was all.

The accused were four young men between the ages of 20 and 24, and one older man of 63. They were standing trial for theft, breaking and entering, receiving, and taking stolen goods across into the western sector to be sold. Because of the unique opportunities of the divided city, there is more of this type of crime in Berlin than in the rest of the German Democratic Republic.

Everyone rose as the judge and her assistants entered, but there was no other formality. The judge, a woman in her early fifties, with a pleasant, homely face, wore a black robe over her dress as her only insignia of office. The prosecuting attorney and one of the lay assessors were also women.

The first prisoner to be called before the judge was a real dead-end kid who slouched up to the bar with an expression of sneering defiance. He had a record of previous offences going right back to the first year after the war, and had already served a two-year sentence from 1950 to 1952.

"And you were at it again in 1953", the judge remarked, "Why?"

The prisoner said he found it difficult to get a job because his employment book showed gaps. But he admitted that he had had a job as a building worker at a wage of 400 marks a month, of which he gave only 120 to his mother. He lived with her and his grandmother, both of whom had pensions.

So he was doing quite well, the judge commented, and certainly need never have been out of work. What made him turn to crime again?

Well, he replied, in December 1953 he had noticed a calculating machine in a shop-window, and asked a man he knew if he was "interested". The answer being yes, he had had a few drinks with his friends to key himself up. Then he had hung about in the neighbourhood of the shop till a late hour, had broken the window and made off with the machine.

Questioned further, he said he had been unable to sell the calculating machine in the East sector of Berlin, and had persuaded one of the other prisoners to sell it in the West. In the French sector they got 500 marks for it, which they shared between them.

Judge: "The man in the French sector makes a nice fat profit on the deal, and you get caught and do time for it. And do you know whom you're harming most? All the decent, hard-working people over here. Oh, so you think that's funny", (as a grin appeared on the prisoner's face). "You couldn't care less about the decent people, could you? But what about yourself? You're 24, and you've had five convictions! What kind of life is that?"

The grin faded as the prisoner mumbled, "May be it will be the last time."

Judge (sternly): "You're quite intelligent enough to know better. Why on earth do you do these things?"

Prisoner (grinning again): "Expect I had my reasons."

Judge: "Tough, aren't you? Have you ever once been moved by a fine and decent feeling?"

No reply.

Appeals to his social conscience being clearly unavailing, the judge went on with her questions. Further offences, committed jointly with the other accused, included breaking into the premises of a Pioneer (youth) club, where chairs and musical instruments had been stolen; and breaking into a shop to steal a typewriter while one of their number acted as a decoy for the policeman on the beat.

The other prisoners, each questioned in turn in the same informal way, were more subdued. None denied his guilt, which indeed they had all confessed before the trial. The trial was only the final public confirmation of their guilt before sentence was passed.

The whole procedure of bringing a criminal to justice is so different from the British that anyone judging it by the final act alone is bound to get a totally distorted picture. Those accused had all been apprehended about four months previously, and admitted their guilt only as successive pieces of evidence accumulated against them. They had originally been picked up in a rather shady cafe in the Ackerstrasse where they were in the habit of meeting to drink and lay their plans.

The procedure of investigating the crime before bringing the suspect to trial often entails some time in prison, which varies according to the seriousness of the crime and the difficulties encountered in collecting the evidence. It is, however, taken into account in the sentence.

According to a law passed in 1952 on the examination of persons suspected of crime, each suspect must be brought before a magistrate within 24 hours of his arrest. If in that time the police are unable to produce sufficient evidence for a prima facie case, the judge must order the prisoner's immediate realease. If, on the other hand, there is such a case, the investigation must proceed at once, the prisoner meeting the judge periodically in the course of it. As in the West, he has the right to legal defence. There is also the right to an immediate appeal against the sentence, not only for the prisoner against the court, but also for the judge against the majority verdict of the two lay assessors in case he disagrees with them. (If the judge does not appeal, their majority overrides his disagreement and decides the verdict.) There is also provision for compensation to the prisoner in the event of his having been wrongfully detained.

After the prisoners had all been questioned, the prosecuting attorney summed up the case against them.

The people's property, she said, formed the basis of East German society, the vast destruction of the war having made control by the people essential. The Government had passed certain laws to protect the people's property. These men had stolen from the HO, (state trading organisation), and the Konsum (cooperative trade organisation), and were therefore guilty of crimes against the people's property.

She then briefly outlined each prisoner's background, showing how they had all, in spite of reasonably good homes, been corrupted by the social disintegration of the war and post-war years. The man of 63, for instance, had been a soldier in both world wars, and was 80 per cent disabled. One of the four young men was rated as 70 per cent disabled by tuberculosis. He was unmarried, but had two children. The parents of still another of the young men were divorced. All had had previous convictions.

"Young people in our country", said the prosecutor, "are given every opportunity of further training and development, and there are ample opportunities for getting work. Yet these accused have proved indifferent to everything."

She therefore asked for the following sentences: for the first prisoner, the young tough who had shown himself most resistent to reforming influences, two years in the penitentiary (here a woman sitting behind me, evidently the prisoner's mother began to cry softly); for a further two of the young men, one year and two months each in prison; and discharge for the old man (who had acted as receiver, but had not taken part in the robberies). She asked for a discharge also for the fourth of the young men, married and with two children, who was the only one to have remained steadily in employement, in spite of two previous incursions into crime. This was regarded as an important point in his favour.

On inquiring later what was the difference between a prison sentence and the penitentiary, we found the latter, as in the West, to be much the severer penalty. Ordinary prisoners are allowed to work outside the prison (under supervision, of course,) but in the penitentiary prisoners are not allowed outside the walls. Even there, however, the work done is always productive (no sewing of mail-bags or stone-breaking) and, as in prison, is paid for at the normal trade union rates. The educational value of work holds central place in the East German penal system. There are fewer privileges in the penitentiary—less leisure time for reading and other pursuits, fewer visitors and so on.

We returned to the court-room on the following day to hear the sentences. The prosecutor had made her suggestions of penalties laid down by law, and it is the duty of the judge and assessors to make the final decision. In thus bringing in the verdict as well as passing sentence, the judge and assessors combine the functions of judge and jury that are separate in Western procedure. Like the jurors in Britain, though without the property qualification, the assessors may be members of any trade or profession, and in this case they were a woman shop assistant and a bus driver. They endorsed the prosecuting attorney's plea and passed sentence in accordance with it.

Before the sentence was passed, however, each prisoner was given the opportunity to speak freely to the court. Only the young married man seemed deeply sincere as he told the court he wished to make amends to his wife and children for the hardships his behaviour had caused them. He would not hesitate to take the hardest and heaviest work in order to rebuild a good and comfortable home for them.

The old man pleaded not to be sent to prison, as his disability would make this a special hardship. The judge showed no sign of sympathy, and gave him a sharp reprimand. He should have thought of his disability earlier, she reminded him; it had not prevented him from embarking on a series of crimes and misdemeanours.

This court case seemed to us in many ways a better guide to the changes taking place in the minds of the German people than their show places — the great housing projects, new factories, motor tractor stations. In the simplicity and unpretentiousness, the absence of ceremonial mumbo-jumbo in administering the law, we saw the attributes of a real people's court. There was no feeling of division into the godly and the unrighteous; this was much more like a family reunion trying to clear up a rather disagreeable family mess. The public indeed was largely, if not entirely, made up of the family and friends of the accused, with no evidence of the sensation-hungry spectators we are used to in the West.

When we arrived at the court-house before the case started in the morning, the architectural features of the building themselves gave an impression of light and cheerfulness. The great central hall went straight up to the domed glass roof, flooding with sunlight the spiral staircase to the corridors radiating away from the centre. No dark and brooding "majesty of the law" here! From one corridor came the gay chirruping of many children's voices; then a group of three-to-six year olds, at least a score of them, came trooping out, led by a girl in her early twenties.

"What on earth are they doing here?" I exclaimed.

"It's the court nursery going for a walk", a policewoman told us. "Children of the people working here."

Frau Samain, the judge, was kind enough to receive us in her office for an informal chat. She told us about her own "son". She had lost her entire family in the war, and was all alone, so she adopted one of the worst juveniles she had ever tried, a youngster of 17 who was considered a hopeless case. Already under the Hitler regime he was leading a boys' gang, and had a positive mania for destruction. After the war he was continually damaging property and committing violence against people, beating up his own guardian among others. But Frau Samain saw other qualities in him as well, and took him to live with her. It was a slow job breaking down his sullen resistance, but he did go into training as a mechanic.

"Now", she said, with a face full of pride and tenderness, "he's studying for the university. He's very intelligent and wants to be a scientist. Mind you, he's still very much got a will of his own — but not in a bad way", she added quickly.

I could not restrain a gasp of astonishment when she told us that she was the daughter of small peasants, and had herself been a domestic servant all her life up to 1945.

In the socialist movement ever since 1927, she became mayor of her home town at the end of the war, her work in this post causing her to be recommended for legal studies. She went through a concentrated eight-month course, working from eight in the morning till midnight, and became a judge in 1946.

In addition to her court duties, she has continued studying ever since, in order to reach the full professional status of the state examination in jurisprudence. All judges are required, by 1960 at the latest, to have acquired these qualifications. It is part of the Government's drive to overcome the shortages of highly trained and qualified staff in all the professions.

WHO LIVES BETTER?

Basic Prices in East and West

Who lives better, the worker in East Germany or the worker in West Germany?

Exact comparisons of living standards between two states are always difficult, because of currency exchange rates, differences in social service benefits, different diet habits and so on.

Some of these difficulties apply in comparing the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) and the German Federal Republic (West Germany), but the differences are not so great as in other cases, since diet habits and traditional standards of clothing, accomodation, and so on are exactly the same in the two areas.

To enable readers to make their own comparison we print on this page tables showing the normal retail prices in May 1955 of a number of commodities in both parts of Germany. The prices are quoted in East German marks for East Germany, and in West German marks for West Germany. These currencies have different values in the international money market, but in official trade between the two halves of Germany one East Mark is equal to one West Mark. Even more important is the fact that workers' wage rates are roughly equivalent in both parts of the country (i. e. a worker earning 400 marks a month in East Germany would earn about the same number of marks or a little less in West Germany for the same job). Old age pensions are considerably larger in the East than in the West.

Social insurance benefits are considerably higher in East Germany than in the West.

The picture is complicated by the fact that sugar, meat and fats are still rationed in East Germany, to ensure fair distribution at low prices, but about 80 % of the total consumption of these articles is purchased at the low rationed prices.

EAST–WEST PRICES COMPARED

(All prices in marks)

	East	West
Rye bread, per kilogramme (about 2 lb. 3 ozs.)	0.33	0.62
White bread, per kilogramme	1.00	1.25
Potatoes, per kilogramme	0.25	0.30
Electricity, per kilowatt (average)	0.08	0.23
Gas, per cubic metre (about 35 cubic feet)	0.16	0.32
Apartment rent, per 50 square metres of floor space (about 60 square yards)	30.00	33.90
Goods rationed in East Germany		
Sugar, per kilogramme (about 2 lb. 3 ozs)	1.16	1.36
Stewing beef, per kilogramme	2.18	4.19
Pork chops, per kilogramme	2.86	5.28
Sausage, per kilogramme	4.14	5.38
Butter, per kilogramme	4.20	6.70

REFORMING JUNKER ESTATE

The Arnim estate in East Germany consisted of 1500 hectares of agricultural land and 10,000 hectares of woodland and this was divided up in 1945 amongst 185 land workers and poor peasants.

In 1945 there were only 28 horses, 33 cows, 98 pigs and 70 sheep left on the estate; in 1951 the peasants had increased their stock to 101 horses, 344 cows, 1505 pigs and 252 sheep and in 1953 they owned 189 horses, 428 cows, 1959 pigs and 303 sheep.

The former landowner's mansion is now a holiday home, where 1500 working people take their holidays each year. The stables have been converted into a cinema, club, kitchen and dining-room. The former office buildings have been renovated and added to the holiday home.

In the former distillery a laundry for the whole village has been built and baths and showers are in construction.

There are already 81 new houses for individual peasants on the estate.

In 1945 there was a primary school with two teachers in the village; today there is a central school with eight teachers, attended by all the children in the surrounding district, and a kindergarten for 60 children.

INDEX FOR GERMAN REPORT

The index for the 1954 volume of GERMAN REPORT is now ready, and a free copy will be sent to all readers requesting it. Indexes for 1952 and 1953 are also still available.

Single copies of most issues of GERMAN REPORT since its inception in January 1952 are still available in small quantities. If you are filing your copies, and find you have gaps, write in immediately while we still have the copies.

All requests for indexes and back numbers should be addressed to:

DGR
Friedrichstrasse 167/III
Berlin W 8, Germany

New Minister of the Interior

Inspector General Karl Maron, chief of the People's Police, has been appointed Minister of the Interior of the German Democratic Republic, it was announced in Berlin on June 30th. The former minister, Will Stoph, has been relieved of his functions at his own request, the official announcement stated.

Pension for Nazi Mayors

The West German Government has granted the nazi Lord Mayor of Dortmund, Dr. Pagenkopf, his full pension of over 1000 marks (nearly 100 pounds sterling), and has made the payment retroactive, so that he receives a lump sum of 42,000 marks for his true service to the nazi state, according to news reports from West Germany. Dr. Pagenkopf was a high-ranking officer in Hitler's brown-shirted Storm Troops.

Full pensions have also been granted to Herr Budde, nazi Lord Mayor of Bielefeld, who was also district leader of the nazi party, and to Dr. Widgassen, nazi Mayor of Osnabrueck.

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

The West German Defence Ministry has just published an official pamphlet entitled "The Future German Soldier", explaining the new Wehrmacht both to old nazi officers wishing to rejoin, and to future conscripts.

The pamphlet opened up fine prospects to nazis who made a rapid career in Hitler's Wehrmacht. It stated flatly: "Former officers and non-commissioned officers ... will be called up for refresher courses, in general, with the last rank which they held in the former Wehrmacht, and will be taken over with the same rank. It will also be possible for them to be taken over in a higher rank, or to receive rapid promotion within a few months."

Old Officers

Hitler's old officers will obviously feel at home if they are sent to attend the new War Academy: the pamphlet stresses that one of the main subjects there will be "intellectual analysis of the theory and practice of Bolshevism". In Hitler's War Academy they had the same subject, but there it was called "Judaeo-Bolshevism".

Nazi non-commissioned officers are being encouraged to enlist again for long-service jobs, not only by the promise of quick promotion, but with praise for their past service. The pamphlet explicitly states that the majority of non-commissioned officers in Hitler's army were "hard-working, reliable, and did great deeds in the fight."

And why is this new Wehrmacht being raised? The pamphlet is quite explicit about that too — to "liberate" East Germany. The pamphlet states: "The people in the Soviet Zone are looking to us with hope. Only our resolution to defend freedom can give them the strength to hold out until the day when the gate of freedom will be opened for them."

Who is Guilty?

In 1941 in the middle of World War Two, Hans Benaburger from Neustadt in Bavaria was caught by the Gestapo listening to a news bulletin from the BBC. He was arrested and sentenced to three years hard labour, under the nazi law passed on September 1st 1939 which made listening to foreign broadcasts a punishable offence.

Herr Benaburger was lucky — he came out of concentration camp alive. After the end of the war he applied for compensation under the terms of the restitution laws passed in all West German states. On July 13th 1953 his application was rejected. He appealed against the decision, and the appeal went to the Bavarian High Court in Munich.

Rejected Appeal

At the beginning of June 1955 the High Court rejected his appeal. The presiding judge, Walter Burger, delivered a judgement explaining why the appeal had been rejected. Here are some paragraphs from this judgement:

"The Decree on Special Radio Measures promulgated on September 1st 1939 was binding upon all persons, whether they were supporters or opponents of the national socialist regime. This decree was promulgated in order to prevent foreign propaganda and lying news having an influence on the German people, and to threaten severe punishment against those 'Volksgenossen' (nazi word for German citizens, ed.) who had not got sufficient sense of responsibility to refrain from listening to foreign stations.

"This prohibition of listening to foreign stations cannot be regarded as a national socialist measure, since it was conditioned by the war, and accorded with normal legal practice. Persons who were punished under this law cannot therefore claim to have been persecuted by the national socialists.

"Conducive to the severe punishment was the accused's extremely irresponsible conduct... the fact that he tried to minimise the successes won by the state leadership (the nazi government, ed.) and the anti-state attitude of the accused. This was shown by his attitude towards the prospects of success in the war, and towards the military situation. This is shown (in the records of the original nazi trial, ed.) by the various statements made by the accused that the German radio was lying, that Germany would lose the war, and the success so far won did not really mean anything. It must be realised that everybody who acted in such a way must be regarded as an enemy of the German cause and of the national socialist state.

"It is the opinion of this court that he (Herr Benaburger, ed.) acted in such a way as to undermine the power of resistance of the German people, and that he must be regarded as having acted in an anti-state fashion; that he had offended against the German national consciousness, since he, as a German, had subjected himself to the efforts of the enemy powers to undermine the confidence of the German people in the German cause..."

* * *

The Potsdam Agreement, signed by Stalin, Truman and Churchill in August 1945 stated:

."The judicial system will be reorganised in accordance with the principles of democracy, of justice under law, and of equal rights for all citizens..."

Signs of the Times

The West Berlin "Handbook of the German Press" has sent out a questionnaire to all German newspapers asking for details about their type, circulation, etc. One of the questions is "To which group does the paper belong?", and editors are given a list of 30 different alternatives — academic, woman's paper, religious, etc. Alternative 27 reads as follows: "Military Theory (including papers of Old Comrades' Associations)".

MORE DETAILS ABOUT NAZIS

More news about nazis and militarists in West Germany is given in the illustrated book "Conspiracy Against Europe", published in Berlin this spring by the Committee for German Unity.

We shall be glad to send a free copy to any reader interested. Requests should be sent to

GERMAN REPORT
Friedrichstrasse 167/III
Berlin W 8
Germany

Edited and published fortnightly by John Peet. Democratic German Report, Friedrichstrasse 167/III Berlin W 8. Telephone 22 29 68. Printed in Germany by (36). Veröffentlicht unter Lizenz-Nr. 694 beim Presseamt des Ministerpräsidenten der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik